

KHALEDA-ERDOGAN OFFICIAL TALKS

Dhaka, Ankara agree to boost bilateral trade

UNB, Ankara

Bangladesh and Turkey agreed to take concrete steps to expand bilateral trade, commerce and investment as Prime Minister (PM) Khaleda Zia held formal talks with her Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday.

Before the talks at the delegation level, the two PMs had a 20-minute tête-à-tête at the host prime minister's office.

"The talks were very constructive and fruitful," Khaleda told reporters after the meeting.

At a joint meet-the-press function Khaleda and Erdogan stressed on

increasing the cooperation of the two countries in the field of commerce and economy through enhancement of trade and investment in joint ventures.

Khaleda pleaded for the import of more Bangladeshi goods, including pharmaceuticals, apparels, leather items, jute, and jute goods. She also sought Turkish investment in large construction projects in Bangladesh.

The PM called for enhancing cooperation in education, science and technology and cultural fields.

Khaleda suggested convening meeting of the Joint Economic Commission. The JEC is likely to

meet in October.

Erdogan expressed his country's desire to invest in joint-venture projects, including in textile and food-processing sectors. He said the economic relations between the two countries should grow continuously.

Current volume of bilateral trade stands at \$114 million for the 2004-05 fiscal year. Bangladesh exported goods worth around \$76 million to Turkey during the 2004-05 fiscal year.

Erdogan said Turkey considers Bangladesh a close friend and both the countries being the members

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

VOTER LIST SC verdict on CEC's appeal Monday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) will deliver its verdict on Monday on the leave to appeal petition filed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz against the High Court's directives on preparing a fresh voter list, and the SC's suo moto contempt rule on the CEC and ruling BNP lawmaker Nurul Islam Moni.

On completion of hearing on the two matters, the SC full bench headed by Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain yesterday fixed the date for judgement.

Attorney General AJ Mohammad Ali in his submission on the contempt rule defended the CEC and the lawmaker. He argued

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



PHOTO: PID

Turkish Minister for Culture Atilla Koc and Governor of Ankara Ibrahim Kamal received Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on her arrival at an airport in Ankara Wednesday on a state visit to Turkey.

Tigers stretch Aussies to the limit

SPORTS REPORTER

Mashrafee Bin Mortuza dived desperately in the deep backward square-leg area but fell agonisingly

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Prayer Timing

April 14		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrab	6-24	6-28
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

IAEA chief opens tough talks with Iran leaders

AFP, Tehran

The head of the UN's atomic watchdog Mohamed ElBaradei opened tough talks with senior Iranian officials yesterday to press demands the Islamic republic freeze its controversial nuclear programme.

But ElBaradei's appeals, aimed at heading off a sharp escalation of the crisis, appeared doomed to fail on deaf ears with hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad saying the country's atomic ambitions were not up for negotiation.

The 24-hour visit by the head of

the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) comes two days after Iran announced its scientists had successfully enriched uranium to make nuclear fuel.

The Islamic republic insists its programme is peaceful, but the enrichment process can be extended to make the fissile core of a nuclear warhead. The UN Security Council has set April 28 as a deadline for Tehran to halt enrichment.

"The situation is completely changed. We are a nuclear state," Ahmadinejad said.

"We will not negotiate on our rights with anyone," Ahmadinejad

was quoted as saying by the official news agency IRNA. He added that nobody in the country "has the right to step back one iota from the path we are following."

ElBaradei told reporters that he would be hammering home a UN Security Council demand for Iran to mothball its enrichment programme by April 28.

"We hope to convince Iran to take confidence-building measures including suspension of uranium enrichment activities until outstanding issues are

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Rahman admits to ordering killing of lawyers

COURT CORRESPONDENT

JMB chief Abdur Rahman yesterday said that he had directed his followers to kill the lawyers who practise in 'worldly' courts.

He made the comment when a lawyer asked him whether he would appoint a lawyer to defend him during the hearing on a five-day remand petition. The JMB chief

made the same statement on March 23 and April 3 during the hearings on his remands.

The Detective Branch (DB) of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

BDR-BSF Ceasefire at Patgram, fight at Banglabandha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tension still prevails among the villagers near Patgram border in Lalmonirhat following Wednesday's seven-hour skirmishes between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) that killed one Bangladeshi citizen and injured four others.

The BDR and BSF at a sector commander level meeting yesterday agreed to a ceasefire. The two border forces however blamed each other for opening fire first.

Meanwhile, the BDR and BSF exchanged shots at the Banglabandha border in Panchagarh yesterday but no casualty was reported.

Sources said BSF at the sector commander level meeting agreed to stop building a camp within 150 yards of the border that sparked Wednesday's gun battle. The Indian border guards attempted to set up the camp at GK Bari near Patgram border.

After Wednesday's gunfight,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

AL fuelling agitation

Local MP says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling BNP lawmaker of Kansat Prof Shahjahan Mia has alleged that the opposition Awami League (AL) is patronising the agitating local people for political gain, terming the ongoing demonstration 'criminal activities.'

"There is no movement for power supply at Kansat now," Shahjahan told The Daily Star

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Former top cops blame local administration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two former inspectors general of police (IGP) have blamed the local administration for mishandling the situation at Kansat and suggested taking immediate steps at the higher level of the government to resolve the crisis.

"The situation has deteriorated at Kansat in the absence of appropriate measures to handle the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Petition to HC to stop cops' firing on people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of the Kansat carnage, a member of Bangladesh Bar Council yesterday filed a supplementary application in relation to his April 9 writ petition in the High Court (HC) seeking issuance of directive to the government

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

